

**Request for Proposals  
Registered Professional Forester Services  
Community Protection-Central and West Slope Project  
Plumas National Forest, California**

**Background and Statement of Work**

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is partnering with the Plumas National Forest (PNF) in northern California for implementation of the Central and West Slope Community Protection Project. NFF is seeking Registered Professional Forester(s) (RPF) for project level planning and implementation of various vegetation management treatments on about 68,000 acres in Plumas, Sierra, Butte and Yuba Counties. A California Registered Professional Forester license in good standing is a requirement for bidding on this project.

The PNF Community Protection Project is currently in the NEPA planning process with a signed decision expected in spring of 2024. During the planning phase of the project, work that can be completed includes performing reconnaissance to determine where specific treatments should occur, performing surveys to determine required road work, performing hydrologic surveys to identify and classify hydrologic resources, mapping, timber cruising, and other associated activities for planning to implement specific vegetation treatments that are under analysis.

The Community Protection Project is a multi-year, phased project, where work will occur in discrete stages and be approved by the Forest Service before additional work will be authorized. Successful contractors who meet performance objectives can be considered for additional phased work under the agreement resulting from this solicitation, as authorized by the final Decision Notice.

NFF's intention for the Community Protection Project is to build a multi-year program of work, where the RPF(s) will be retained for more than one consecutive field season to build and implement a comprehensive program of work for the PNF's Central and West Slope Community Protection Project.

Successful bidders will be contracted on an annual basis. At the end of each contract period, agreements may be extended and reauthorized by agreement between the NFF and the contractor. Payment will be processed on a net 30 basis, beginning upon acceptance of work by NFF.

**Information Requested**

If interested in submitting a bid for this project, please provide a proposal based on the description of work outlined in the attached appendices. Your proposal should address your ability to perform all the work described in Appendix 1 and provide an hourly rate for participating in work described in Appendix 2. Proposals must include the following items:

- Area you are interested in working (i.e., Greater Portola, West Slope, or entire project).
- Technical approach for project completion.
- Workforce capacity for the project and estimated production ability per field

- season.
- Work experience on similar projects.
- Availability/willingness to contract for more than one consecutive field season.
- Per unit cost for services (hourly basis for RPF and Technician).
- Availability/timing for beginning work.
- Three professional references.

Specific requirements are detailed below.

## I. PROJECT OVERVIEW AND REQUIREMENTS

### General Specifications

- A. Description of Work – This Request for Proposals is for all forestry services related to timber and fuels project design and implementation as stated in Appendix 1. Work will occur in phases requiring approval from the FS before additional work will be authorized for a given project area. Contractors may work on more than one project area within their contracted area while approvals are pending.

The Contractor shall identify what they can supply in terms of materials, labor, equipment, supplies, supervision, quality control, and incidentals required to complete the work described. Contractors may not charge durable goods or equipment under this agreement for purchase or reimbursement (i.e. vehicles, computers, tablets, field equipment etc.). Reimbursement for non-durable goods such as flagging, log paint, and printed unit signs may be authorized with preapproval by NFF. FS will provide tree marking and boundary paint. The Contractor shall perform all work in a safe and conscientious manner.

- B. Project Location – The project is located in two distinct geographic areas on the PNF. The Greater Portola project area (approximately 32,000 acres) is located in Plumas and Sierra Counties, near the communities of Beckwourth and Portola. The West Slope project area (approximately 37,900 acres) is located in Butte and Yuba Counties, near the communities of Challenge and Brownsville.
- C. Work Schedule – The RPF shall determine their own work schedule and provide a timeline for project completion and accomplishment acceptable to the NFF. The first phase of the project will be field reconnaissance and determining appropriate treatment locations. On the ground operations may not be scheduled until the Decision Notice is approved. The anticipated production goal is preparation or implementation of approximately 10,000 acres per field season. NFF expects to retain services from more than one consultant to reach this production goal. *Please be sure to thoroughly review Appendix 1 and include a statement in your bid regarding your ability to contribute to this objective.*

### Other Project Requirements and Specifications

- I. Utilities – In many locations there will be no or limited sanitation, water, electrical or housing services available. The Contractor shall make its own arrangements for temporary facilities if needed.
- II. Specifications – Project work shall be accomplished in accordance with the following:
  - Please review details provided in Appendix 1.

## **Insurance Requirements**

Upon selection of the winning bid, the Contractor agrees that it has and shall maintain the following insurance coverage indicated below. The effective date of all coverage shall precede the start of any work.

- a. State minimum workers' compensation insurance coverage for its employees, if any.
- b. Broad form general liability, property damage, and automotive liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of any person and \$2,000,000 for bodily injury, death, or damage to property of more than one person. The Contractor shall name NFF an Additional Named Insured and provide NFF with a certificate of insurance evidencing such coverages, prior to the initiation of the Scope of Services.
- c. If the Scope of Services includes professional services as identified herein, Contractor shall also provide professional errors and omissions liability insurance. Professional services for purposes of this section include, but are not limited to performing architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, land surveying or planning, preparation and signing or stamping of drawings, maps, surveys or construction specifications, or design and development of computer software, programs or websites by the Contractor or by subcontractors on behalf of the Contractor, for which professional liability insurance would typically be required. The minimum coverage limits required are \$1,000,000 for each claim and \$1,000,000 annual aggregate.

## **Prohibited Telecommunications Services and Equipment**

The Contractor is responsible for compliance with the prohibition on certain telecommunications and video surveillance services or equipment identified in 2 CFR 200.216.

## **Payment/Performance Security**

Contractor shall post cash, a letter of credit, bond, or other financial security that is easily convertible into cash in a form acceptable to the NFF, in its sole determination, to assure completion of the work required under any subsequent agreement and payment of all amounts lawfully due to all persons supplying or furnishing to the Contractor or Contractor's subcontractors with labor, laborers, materials, rental machinery, tools or equipment used or to perform the work. Contractor may incorporate required associated costs into mobilization costs or other approved expenses.

- a. Work that is classified as construction in accordance with the Miller Act or Little Miller Act or if required per conditions of the funding source, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of any Agreement. For the purposes of this Request for Proposal, construction is defined as "any contract greater than \$100,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair of any public building or public work where the federal government is the owner", or
- b. If Contractor is not self-performing at least 85% of the total contract value or if the cost of materials is in excess of the larger of \$100,000 or 50% of the contract total, payment and performance bonding will be required in the full amount of the agreement, or

- c. If the value of the agreement is in excess of \$250,000, Contractor will be required to post financial security in a form acceptable to the NFF in the amount of 5% of the total agreement value up to \$250,000 in total financial security.

**American Made Products.** The work associated with this RFP is subject to Build America, Buy America Act. P.L. 117-58, Secs 70911-70917, and as such, domestic content procurement preference requires all iron and steel, manufactured products and construction materials used within the scope of this Agreement, be produced in the United States.

#### **Federal Exclusion Verification**

The selected Contractor will be required to affirm that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or voluntarily excluded from participation in this transaction by any Federal department or agency.

#### **Federal Flowdown Provisions**

Flowdown Requirements: Any Agreement associated with this RFP may be subject to flowdown requirements under associated federal or state funding agreements, which are included and made part of by this reference.

## **II. REQUIRED COMPONENTS**

#### **Technical Proposal**

Please provide a detailed technical approach to the work.

#### **Contractor Qualifications**

- I. Past Experience – Please provide a brief explanation of previous work experience with land management agencies, working on landscape scale projects, and administering logging and/or biomass jobs.
- II. References – Please provide three professional references that can speak to past performance.

**Pricing Schedule**

Contractor shall price work according to the schedule below. Prevailing wages are required per conditions of funding sources (construction projects only). NFF will not authorize payment for overtime paid to hourly workers. Hourly rates should include travel costs such as mileage and per diem, please provide a narrative or table identifying those costs and summarizing how the total hourly rate you provide is calculated. Supplies may include non-durable goods such as flagging and paint for log branding, etc., supply orders shall be pre-approved by NFF. Total hourly estimates (total units) should be correlated to your production ability and workforce capacity. You may add lines to the bid tables for additional staff as needed.

**Table 1: Bid Table for Appendix 1 Statement of Work**

|     | Task/Item           | Units  | Unit Cost | Total Units | Total Cost |
|-----|---------------------|--------|-----------|-------------|------------|
| (a) | Registered Forester | Hour   |           |             |            |
| (b) | Associate Forester  | Hour   |           |             |            |
| (c) | Forestry Technician | Hour   |           |             |            |
| (d) | Supplies            | Annual |           |             |            |
| (e) | Total               |        |           |             |            |

**Table 2: Bid Table for Appendix 2 Statement of Work**

|     | Task/Item           | Units | Unit Cost |
|-----|---------------------|-------|-----------|
| (a) | Registered Forester | Hour  |           |
| (b) | Associate Forester  | Hour  |           |
| (c) | Forestry Technician | Hour  |           |

**III. SUBMISSION, EVALUATION, AND CONTACTS**

**Contractor Selection Process**

This is a request for proposals only and bids furnished are not offers from the National Forest Foundation. This request does not commit the National Forest Foundation to pay any costs incurred in the preparation or submission of the proposal or to contract for supplies or services.

The NFF will use the Evaluation Factors below to review each submitted bid. Based on the outcomes of that selection process, the NFF will notify successful and unsuccessful bidders by March 5, 2024, and will prepare a separate contract document.

## Evaluation Factors and Relative Importance

The following criteria will be used in the evaluation of submitted proposals, ordered from highest weighting (level 3) to lowest weighting (level 1).

### Level 3 Criteria

- Price / cost
- Equipment and contractor capability
- Timing of when contractor can begin and/or finish the project
- Past performance, references, and USFS feedback

### Level 2 Criteria

- Technical proposal / proposed approach to project
- Overall strategic benefits to meeting NFF goals and grant needs, requirements, and timelines
- Ability and willingness to work for more than one consecutive field season.

### Level 1 Criteria

- Benefits to the local community
- Relationship to local community
- Additional professional licenses (PCA,LTO etc.)

## Point of Contact

Please submit any questions about the project in writing to the Point of Contact.

Ivy Kostick  
National Forest Foundation, Northern Sierra Project Manager  
[ikostick@nationalforests.org](mailto:ikostick@nationalforests.org)

Responses will be shared with known interested parties by email or otherwise posted at <https://www.nationalforests.org/rfp>.

## Bid Submission

Submit bids via email to [ikostick@nationalforests.org](mailto:ikostick@nationalforests.org) by February 20, 2024.

## Equal Opportunity Provider

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, the National Forest Foundation is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, political beliefs, or disability.

**APPENDIX 1 – Statement of Work  
Community Protection – Central and West Slope Project  
Plumas National Forest, California**

**Background:**

The National Forest Foundation (NFF) is seeking the contracted services of one or more Registered Professional Foresters (RPF) to design, prepare, and implement landscape scale vegetation management treatments as part of the Plumas National Forest's (PNF) Community Protection-Central and West Slope Project. Vegetation treatments within the scope of this project include both commercial and non-commercial activities.

The PNF Community Protection Project is currently in the NEPA planning process with a signed decision expected in spring of 2024. During the planning phase of the project, work that can be completed includes performing reconnaissance to determine where specific treatments should occur, performing surveys related to road work and hydrology, mapping proposed treatment units, timber cruising, and other associated activities for planning to implement specific vegetation treatments under analysis in the NEPA document.

The Community Protection Project is a multi-year, phased project, where work will occur in discrete segments and be approved by the Forest Service before additional work will be authorized. Successful contractors who meet performance objectives can be considered for additional phased work under the agreement resulting from the solicitation, as authorized by the final Decision Notice.

The RPF will be expected to closely coordinate work with the NFF representative throughout the life of the contract, provide timely progress reports, and work diligently to meet agreed upon production goals and quality standards. NFF's goal is to establish a multi-year program of work with the RPF and retain services for several consecutive field seasons.

**1) Project Coordination**

- a) The RPF will work closely with the NFF representative to ensure proposed treatments meet the purpose and need described in the Environmental Assessment and incorporate design elements and mitigations as required. The RPF will be responsible for creating reports and products and coordinating work tasks including and not limited to:
  - i) Reviewing the Environmental Assessment and associated appendices.
  - ii) Reviewing documentation related to relevant FS policies and procedures, such as:
    - (1) road engineering specifications
    - (2) Virtual boundaries desk guide.
    - (3) timber cruising handbook (FSH 2409.12)
    - (4) Regional theft prevention policies (FSH 2409.12b)

- iii) Preparing and submitting required reports for project phases, such as:
  - (1) Technical proposal detailing planned annual operations.
  - (2) Road survey and required road work proposal to support annual plan.
  - (3) Hydrologic survey information, including road crossings, road erosion/watercourse discharge points, in unit stream classifications, and identification of springs or other hydrologic areas of interest.
  - (4) Cruise reports detailing statistical information and product volume by species.
  - (5) Harvest Cards or reports showing georeferenced unit locations and areas of interest (i.e. Watercourses, excluded area, noxious weeds, etc.) within the unit.
  - (6) Silvicultural prescriptions by unit and operational guidelines to implement the prescription.
- iv) Scheduling regular check in and progress reporting calls or meetings and providing timely information on accomplishments and progress.
- v) Reporting issues and consulting on problems encountered as they occur.

## **2) Fuels Project Design and Preparation**

- a) The RPF will determine where within the project area non-commercial vegetation treatments are the best alternative to reach residual stand structure objectives, including biomass thinning of conifer and mastication of small diameter conifer or brush. Work for fuels projects will include and is not limited to:
  - i) Determine appropriate treatment method on a unit-by-unit basis based on NEPA documentation and FS guidelines or references.
  - ii) Identify unit boundaries based on vegetation type, treatment method and operational constraints.
  - iii) Layout units and create georeferenced maps, utilizing discernable (roads, watercourses etc.) or virtual boundaries as appropriate.
  - iv) Identify, flag and map sensitive or special treatment areas or excluded areas as needed.
  - v) Survey and classify watercourses to determine appropriate activity buffers.
  - vi) Prepare silvicultural prescriptions and service work implementation specifications that meet guidelines and incorporate mitigations established during the NEPA process.
  - vii) Identify trucking routes, landings, and watercourse crossings, make recommendations for maintenance, repair, or construction and reconstruction of transportation infrastructure as needed.
- b) Deliverable work products include and are not limited to a logical plan of operations, silvicultural prescriptions and detailed service work implementation specifications, defined and prepared treatment units that are ready for on the ground implementation, geospatial data such as unit locations, acres by treatment type, stream classifications, location of sensitive plants or noxious weeds if encountered, and any excluded or special treatment areas.



### **3) Timber Sale Design and Preparation**

- a) The RPF will determine where within the project area commercial timber sales are the best alternative to reach residual stand structure objectives. The PNF will provide tree marking paint when required. Timber sale and cruise plans must be approved and meet PNF requirements. Work for timber sale projects will include and is not limited to:
  - i) Identify, layout and map operational unit boundaries for ground-based logging, incorporating NEPA mitigations and design criteria.
  - ii) Identify and utilize discernible or virtual boundaries whenever possible.
  - iii) Identify, flag and map sensitive or special treatment areas or excluded areas as needed.
  - iv) Survey and classify watercourses to determine appropriate activity buffers.
  - v) Develop silvicultural prescriptions and implementation instructions (i.e. for timber marking or cutting).
  - vi) Utilize designation by prescription (DxP) when appropriate to minimize the need to mark timber.
  - vii) Where DxP is not feasible, determine timber designation method and mark trees for cut or leave.
  - viii) Develop and implement a cruise plan to accurately determine merchantable timber volume by species.
  - ix) Identify trucking routes, landings, and watercourse crossings, make recommendations for maintenance, repair, or construction and reconstruction of transportation infrastructure as needed.
  - x) Keeping records and recording information as required by PNF policies and procedures.
- b) Deliverable work products will consist of but are not limited to a logical plan of timber operations including a transportation plan and required road work, a cruise plan and resulting volume and statistical data, silvicultural prescriptions, implementation guidelines (marking and/or DxP), geospatial data including unit boundaries, acreage, and mapping special treatment, watercourses and hydrologic resources, sensitive sites, or excluded areas as necessary.

### **4) Operational Administration**

- a) The RPF may be asked to perform on the ground contractual administration for non-commercial and commercial vegetation management projects. Operational administration work will include and is not limited to:
  - i) Organizing and leading a pre-work meeting with the operational contractor to explain treatment requirements, required mitigations and other project or contractual performance requirements.
  - ii) Regularly monitoring contractor performance in the field to ensure compliance with treatment objectives, environmental protection, and fire prevention measures.
  - iii) Addressing and correcting performance problems or issues to ensure continued operational compliance and quality end results.
  - iv) Tracking contractor progress and reporting accomplishments and projected work completion to NFF at agreed upon intervals.

- b) For commercial timber projects:
  - i) Monitor operations and ensure appropriate utilization, log branding/painting, load ticketing and scaling.
  - ii) Monitor road conditions during hauling and ensure erosion control measures and road maintenance comply with contractual and safety requirements.
  - iii) Ensure stump treatment, brush disposal and logging slash treatment are concurrent with operations and meet contractual requirements.
  - iv) Assist with or provide information for timber sale financial accounting as needed.

**5) Assist NFF in developing Innovative and Advanced Technologies**

- a) Please review Appendix 2 for details on this service request.

**APPENDIX 2 – Innovative and Advanced Technologies  
Community Protection – Central and West Slope Project  
Plumas National Forest, California**

At the discretion of the National Forest Foundation, the RPF shall utilize innovative and advanced technology services to gain efficiency in professional forestry field work and operations during project implementation. These innovative and advanced technology services should be purpose-built for land managers, foresters and operators to increase the pace and scale of (1) project preparation and (2) implementation of fuels reduction and forest health work across the U.S.

**1. During Project Preparation - Advanced Approaches & Innovation Program:**

- a. Digital Mapping: Create a digital map of the forest including forest inventory metrics and unit boundaries. This will be accomplished by leveraging various data collection methods, technologies, and approaches. The aim of this program will be to apply this innovative and advanced technology alongside the Forestry Contractor to (i) increase pace and scale of the project preparation phase and (ii) translate this data into precision real-time operational and positional guidance during the project implementation phase.
- b. Ground Truthing: Leveraging the innovative and advanced technology to calibrate forest data collected by the Forestry Contractor and data generated through (a) Digital Mapping.

**2. During Implementation - Advanced Technologies Toolkit:**

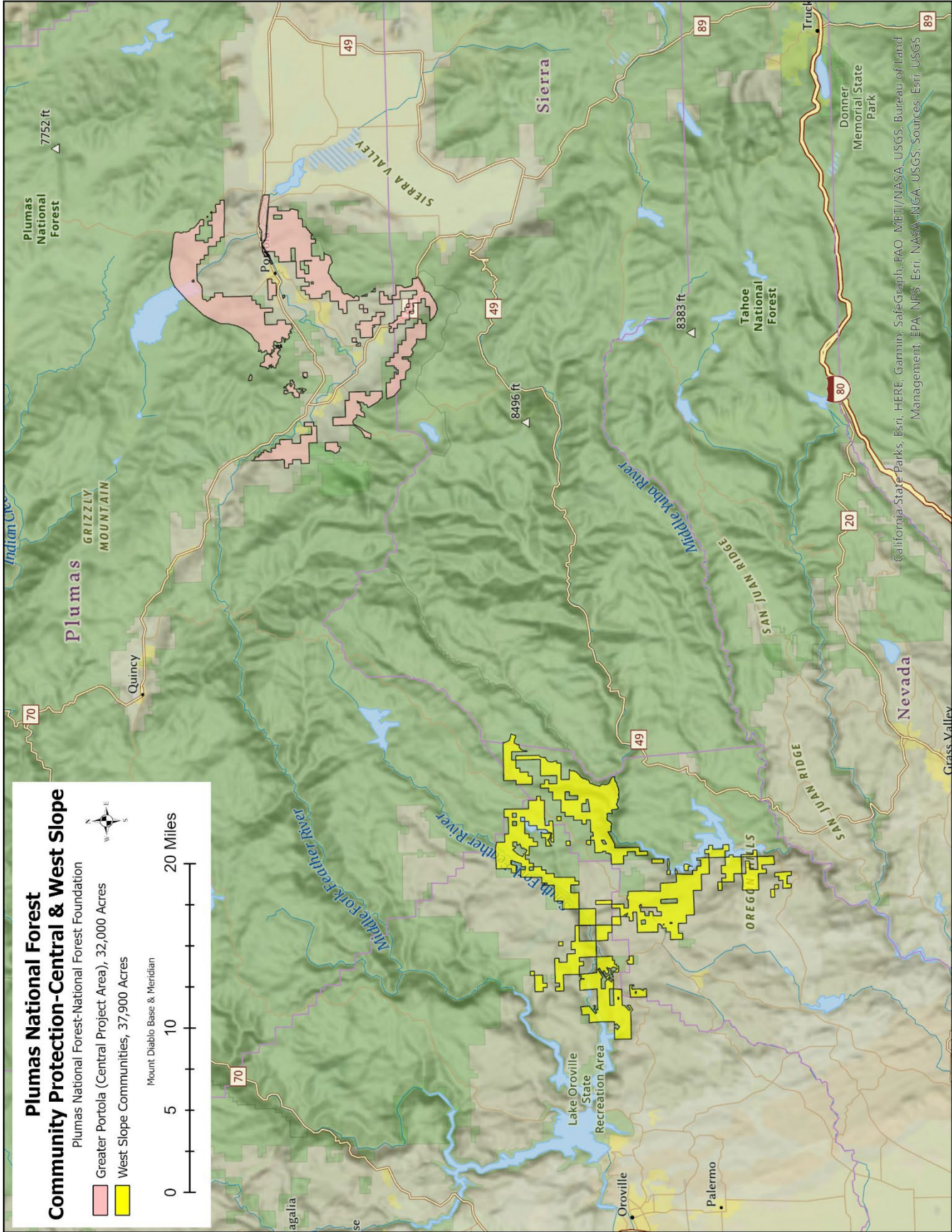
- a. Portal: Portal is a web application that reports on-the-ground progress to administrators, foresters, and operators. These multiple stakeholders will have visibility into field activities on demand with progress updates from the field occurring no less than weekly. Portal will also allow the stakeholders and contractors to view and export a map and shape files of location-specific work progress and monitor key quality control metrics including acres completed, acres remaining, and estimated time to project completion. Portal will also deliver pre-and post-treatment basal area per acre calculations to key stakeholders to inform acres ready for inspection and overall prescription compliance, for areas that have been treated with a Lidar based sensor package.
- b. Sensors: Camera-based and Lidar-based machine mounted sensors will be deployed on equipment in two primary form factors throughout the project in order to capture images, audio, and generate precision-GPS tracks of completed work. The Rover combines GPS, audio, and time lapse video for a lightweight and passive data collection system, while the Sensor Box provides an integrated experience with high precision GPS, video, Lidar, and feedback for the in-cab operator to guide the work in real time. This data is then provided to key stakeholders via the Portal.
- c. Hub Connectivity: A connectivity solution at the project landing site will be deployed at the start of project implementation and as coordinated by the provider of the innovative and advanced and the implementation contractor. Hub Connectivity will enable real-time communication and coordination between the Forester and the implementation contractor, from this landing.

d. Guide: Guide will be provided at the start of implementation to enhance oversight capabilities, by providing real-time alerts to in-cab operators to help avoid identified no-go zones and remain within the project boundaries. Additional capabilities will be enabled through the Lidar based system to provide real-time guidance and improve results on the ground such as: DBH measurement and spacing between standing trees.

e. Updates to Toolkit: On a monthly basis, the provider of the innovative and advanced technology can have access to operator's equipment to update Earth Force's software and hardware outside of production hours, at mutually agreeable times to perform IT servicing and provide updates or improvements to ongoing capabilities.

#### **5. Contact for providers of innovative and advanced technologies**

To learn more, please reach out to Earth Force VP, Operations Rikard Grunnan. He can be contacted at [rgrunnan@earthforce.io](mailto:rgrunnan@earthforce.io).



**Plumas National Forest  
Community Protection-Central & West Slope**

Plumas National Forest-National Forest Foundation

- Greater Portola (Central Project Area), 32,000 Acres
- West Slope Communities, 37,900 Acres

0 5 10 20 Miles

Mount Diablo Base & Meridian

California State Parks, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, Sources: Esri, USGS